(*b*) All these thirty-eight employees have been taken over into the service of the Government Electricity Dpartment on a Provisional basis on the vesting of the Palghat Electrical Undertaking in the Government on 1st April 1955. The question of their regular absorption in Government service is under consideration.

Residential and Non-residential Scholarships

* 2636 *Q.*—SRI N. RAJAGOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state the " Parents' income limit " for the grant of residential and non-residential scholarships to the Backward Community students in the various stages of education, namely, professional, collegiate secondary and so on?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : The annual income of the parents or guardians of the pupils of Backward Classes applying for scholarship awarded by the Harijan Welfare Department should not exceed Rs. 1,200 per annum in the case of pupils in secondary schools and Rs. 1,500 in the case of students in colleges including professional colleges.

Employees of ex-Pudukkottai Services

* 2637 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of employees of the ex-Pudukkottai Services declared " Unqualified " for absorption in the Madras State Service who have been granted the Madras State Scales of pay from 1st January 1949 with right to arrears from 1st January 1949;

(*b*) the number of such employees who have been granted the Madras State scales of pay from 1st January 1949, but without right to arrears of salary from 1st January 1949; and

(*c*) the reasons for the differential treatment of employees of the same category?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) 555.

(*b*) 70.

(*c*) The payment of arrears to a majority of unqualified employees and denial of the same to a few is not due to any invidious discrimination on personal grounds. Arrears from 1st January 1949 have been allowed to those who have been exempted from possessing the necessary qualification by relaxation of rules or condonation of deficiency in qualification and who were considered as fully qualified. In some cases arrears from 1st January 1949 have been paid by mistake prior to issue of orders regarding the date from which arrears could be paid to unqualified employees and in many such cases, the over-payment was not recovered as it would mean hardship to the staff concerned.